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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Timothy V. Stagg et al.

Examiner: Robert A. Madsen

Serial No.: 09/728,697

Group Art Unit: 1761

Filed: December 1, 2000

Docket No.: 54186US017

Due Date: December 25, 2002

Title: PLASTIC FILM PACKAGING WITH TEARABLE TAPE STRIP

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TC 1700

Sir/Madam:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet containing Certificate of Mailing (1 pg.).
- ☒ Amendment and Response (13 pgs.);
- ☒ Amendment and Response (Version with Markings to Show Changes Made) (8 pgs.).
- ☒ Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over a Prior Patent.
- ☒ Check in the amount of \$110.00 to cover the Terminal Disclaimer fee.
- ☐ Other:
- ☒ Return Postcard.

If an additional fee is required due to changes to the claims, the fee has been calculated as follows:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	(1) Claims Remaining After Amendment		(2) Highest Number Previously Paid For	(3) Present Extra	Rate	Fee
TOTAL CLAIMS	47	-	55	0	x 18.00 =	\$0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	3	-	4	0	x 84.00 =	\$0.00
[] MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED						\$0.00
TOTAL						\$0.00

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500471.

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By:
Name: Timothy A. Czaja
Reg. No.: 39,649

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 26th day of December, 2002.

By:
Name: Timothy A. Czaja

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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Dear Sir/Madam:

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2002. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 19, 34, 40, 43, and 53-55 and amend claims 1, 17, and 38 as follows:

A1 B1 1. (Amended) Packaging for containing an article, the packaging comprising:
a continuous, tear-resistant film formable to define an enclosed region for containing an article, wherein the film is characterized by a puncture-propagation tear resistance of at least 20 N/ply; and
a tearable tape strip secured to the film;
wherein the tearable tape strip is configured to tear an opening through the film for accessing the enclosed region upon tearing of the tearable tape strip.

2. The packaging of claim 1, wherein the film is not otherwise cleanly tearable.

3. (Cancelled)

A2 Cont. B1 4. The packaging of claim 1, wherein the film is tough and exhibits stretching before tearing in response to a tearing force imparted at a nick formed in the film.